

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043699
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:AEGRIFFIN

APPROVED BY NEA:AEGRIFFIN

S/S-O:RPERITO

-----272304 067732 /70

R 272242Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043699

EXDIS

FOL RPT ISLAMABAD 1809 ACTION SECSTATE 22 FEB 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1809

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, XF

SUBJECT: ARAFAT COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH US

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ASKED THAT I SEE HIM OVER
THE WEEKEND AND GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE:

2. QUOTE: MR YASSER ARAFAT WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRIME
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MINISTER AT HIS RESIDENCE IN LARKANA ON THE 9TH FEB. 1977.
MR. YASSER ARAFAT, INTER ALIA, MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS
DURING THE DISCUSSION:

A) THE US SEES THE PLO AS AN OBSTACLE. THE PLO
WAS CERTAINLY NOT AN OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF A SETTLEMENT.
ISRAEL WAS ACQUIRING STRATEGIC WEAPONS INCLUDING PHANTOMS 15

AND 16. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE PLO WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

B) THE PROPOSAL FOR RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AS PART OF A FEDERATION OR CONFEDERATION WITH JORDAN WAS AIMED AT CURBING THE PALESTINIAN STRENGTH. THERE WAS AN IMPRESSION THAT EVEN A MINI PALESTINIAN STATE WILL EXPAND. THIS WAS WRONG BECAUSE ISRAEL WAS STRONGER THAN ALL THE ARAB STATES COMBINED.

C) MR. ARAFAT DID NOT SEE ANY SHIFT IN THE AMERICAN POSITION TOWARDS THE PLO. THE US HAD NOT EVEN ALLOWED HIM TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

D. RECOGNITION WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CARD THE PALESTINIANS HAD AND THEY WERE NOT GOING TO THROW IT AWAY. IF RECOGNITION WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER AND IF PLO'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL WAS IMPORTANT, THERE WAS AN EQUAL NEED FOR THE US TO RECOGNISE THE PLO.

E) ISRAEL'S AIM WAS TO GAIN TIME TO CONSOLIDATE ITS HOLD OVER JERUSALEM AND CHANGE ITS DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTER. IN 1967 THERE WAS AN OLD JEWISH QUARTER IN JERUSALEM. TODAY THERE WAS AN OLD MUSLIM QUARTER. UNQUOTE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, SHAHI SAID HE CONSIDERED PARA D MOST IMPORTANT PART OF DOCUMENT. HE SAID THE GENERAL PITCH OF ARAFAT WAS THAT THE PLO DIDN'T HAVE MAY CARDS LEFT TO PLAY AND FELT THEY MUST RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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QUID PRO QUO FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL.

4. SHAHI SAID THAT ARAFAT HAD ASKED BHUTTO TO INTERCEDE WITH THE US BUT BHUTTO FELT INFORMING US OF ABOVE WAS AS FAR AS HE SHOULD GO. BYROADE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE043699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AEGRIFFIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770068-0203
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977025/aaaaadyb.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4e1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3340101
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAFAT COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH US
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASSER)
To: BEIRUT AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4e1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009